

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2019
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	TOILETS ARE NOT GARBAGE CANS STICKER INITIATIVE

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director of Environmental and Engineering Services and City Engineer, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the requests of the 7th Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment, June 6, 2018:

- a) The “Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans” sticker initiative **CONTINUE** as a voluntary program rather than a required program at all City of London facilities.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

None.

2015-19 STRATEGIC PLAN

This project initiative supports the Strategic Plan with respect to Building a Sustainable City-Robust Infrastructure through a public information campaign to protect the sanitary sewer system.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

This report is in response to requests received from the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) to replace the voluntary “Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans” sticker initiative with a required program at all City of London facilities.

Context

Wastewater Treatment Operations in conjunction with Corporate Communications have developed a sticker for placement in washrooms advising that “Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans”. A presentation was given on June 6, 2018 to the Waste Sub-committee of ACE to outline the goal of the sticker initiative. The presentation was well received and led to the following requests, resolutions b) i,ii and iii from ACE, attached as Appendix ‘A’:

- Require all bathroom stalls within City of London facilities to display the stickers;
- Assign a staff member to the initiative for follow up by ACE; and
- Report back to ACE on the feasibility of requiring all facilities that receive City of London funding to display the sticker in all bathroom stalls.

DISCUSSION

Non-human waste material including wipes, dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms and other debris can plug wastewater equipment and collection systems and can also combine with other wastes such as fats, oils and greases (FOG) to form large “reinforced” masses throughout the sanitary system; both lead to additional operational and maintenance costs and increase the risk of system overflows. The washroom sticker was developed to inform residents that toilets and the sanitary system are not designed for garbage disposal. The sticker campaign also compliments the “Your Turn” grease cups which are promoted at many events and distributed to organizations across the City. Both initiatives are intended to raise the awareness of the problems associated with disposing these materials into the sanitary system.

There are approximately 1,000 toilets in 128 City operated facilities. From the outset installing the stickers has been voluntary with some facilities receiving a direct benefit if their sanitary systems are prone to plugging with flushed debris. Other sites may be more prone to vandalism and replacing the stickers can become an additional maintenance item. The labour and material costs to install the stickers in the 128 sites is estimated at \$5,200.00 plus ongoing maintenance and monitoring. Expanding the program to all city funded facilities could easily double this cost in addition to the resources required to maintain a site inventory and contact list; the stickers cost \$187.00 per 1000.

The “Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans” sticker initiative is voluntary and is also available to institutions outside of those operated or funded by the City. The sites voluntarily displaying the stickers maintain them at no cost to the City outside of the cost of the stickers themselves. Low cost is important in an information program as its effectiveness cannot be easily quantified and it allows complimentary programs such as the grease cups to be implemented. Making the stickers mandatory at all City of London sites will dramatically increase the cost of the initiative and may displace current and future programs aimed at improving the reliability of the wastewater system.

As an alternative to a mandatory program the stickers can be offered to other City facilities for voluntary installation and maintenance as part of their normal washroom maintenance activities. This will increase the exposure of the stickers without the resources required to manage a mandatory program.

CONCLUSIONS

While it may be desirable to have these stickers displayed in all City of London facilities, it is not cost effective to implement the program as requested by Advisory Committee on the Environment. Expanding the distribution and maintenance of the “Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans” stickers on a voluntary basis is the recommended approach.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with the assistance of Tony Van Rossum, Environmental Services Engineer, Barry Orr, Sewer Outreach and Control Inspector, Wastewater Treatment Operations and Val Morgado, Manager, Facilities Maintenance and Operations.

PREPARED BY:	REVIEWED BY:
GEORDIE GAULD DIVISION MANAGER WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATIONS	SCOTT MATHERS, MPA, P.ENG. DIRECTOR WATER, WASTEWATER AND TREATMENT
RECOMMENDED BY:	
KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER	

Attach: Appendix 'A' - Municipal Council Resolution, June 26, 2018
Appendix 'B' - Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans Sticker

cc: Tony Van Rossum, Wastewater Treatment Operations
Barry Orr, Wastewater Treatment Operations
Val Morgado, Manager, Facilities Maintenance and Operations
Glynis Tucker, Corporate Communications
Alan Dunbar, Financial and Corporate Services
Jason Davies, Financial Policy and Planning

Appendix 'A'

Council Resolution- June 26, 2018



P.O. Box 5035
300 Dufferin
Avenue
London, ON
N6A 4L9

June 27, 2018

K. Scherr
Managing Director, Engineering and Environmental Services and City Engineer

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its meeting held on June 26, 2018 resolved:

That, the following actions be taken with respect to the 7th Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment from its meeting held on June 6, 2018:

a) the Managing Director, Environmental and Engineering Services & City Engineer BE REQUESTED to review the presentation appended to the 7th Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment from C. Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste Management Service, City of Markham, with respect to the Markham Waste Diversion Strategy "Mission Green" and explore the feasibility of implementing a similar program in City of London facilities and report to the Civic Works Committee;

b) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to report to the Civic Works Committee, as soon as possible, on the undertaking of the following with respect to the "Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans" public awareness sticker initiative, coordinated by B. Orr, Sewer Outreach and Control Inspector:

i) requiring all bathroom stalls within City of London facilities to display the "Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans" sticker;

it being noted that the above-noted sticker previously approved for use by the City of London Communications Department, is currently displayed in some, but not all, City of London facility bathroom stalls and is being displayed, voluntarily, by many organizations, including retail stores, restaurants and schools;

ii) identifying to the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) the key Civic Administration who would be responsible for implementing the above-noted action, so that the ACE may follow up on the progress of the implementation and in order to have a specific contact who can advise the ACE of the reasons why a sticker is not displayed in certain instances; and,

iii) reporting back to the ACE by September 7, 2018 with respect to the feasibility of requiring all facilities that receive City of London funding, including, but not limited to, Centennial Hall, the Covent Garden Market, Museum London, London Public Library locations, police and fire stations, Tourism London, the London Convention Centre, Dearness Home, Kettle Creek Conservation Authority, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, to display the above-noted sticker in all bathroom stalls;

it being noted that the Waste Sub-Committee report, appended to the agenda, was received;

c) J. Ramsay, Project Manager, Rapid Transit, BE ADVISED that M. Bloxam will represent the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) on the Municipal Advisory Group related to Rapid Transit; it being noted that S. Hall will act as an alternate representative for the ACE on the Advisory Group; and,

d) clauses 1.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1 to 3.6, 5.1 and 5.2, BE RECEIVED. (3.1/11/PEC)



C. Saunders
City Clerk
/lm

cc. B. Orr, Sewer Outreach and Control inspector
J. Ramsay, Project Director, Rapid Transit
P. Shack, Committee Secretary
CWC Deferred List
Chair and Members, Advisory Committee on the Environment

APPENDIX 'B'

Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans Sticker

